

I produce a monthly neighborhood radio program in southwest Portland, Oregon. The program is broadcast from the student-run radio station at Lewis and Clark College, with a less-than-one-watt signal. While the program is also broadcast over the internet, the broadcast coverage area is extremely limited.

Our program consists of a mix of interviews on neighborhood current affairs, history, politics and culture, along with recorded musical performances by neighborhood schoolchildren. A stronger signal would allow us to broadcast this unique neighborhood mix of programming to hundreds or thousands of listeners instead of just two or three.

I believe the FCC's proposed rule on low power radio is a major step towards realizing the Commission's mission to manage the public airwaves IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. In our neighborhood, we have the technical and financial resources to get a low-power radio station on the air in short-order. And we have a tradition of neighborhood involvement and interest in civic affairs that would make such a station successful. But we cannot do this now within the bounds of the law.

I am confident the FCC can resolve the technical concerns surrounding interference with full-service FM stations. I hope opposition to this proposal by powerful entities such as the National Association of Broadcasters and National Public Radio will not sway the commission towards dropping this proposal. These entities have obvious interests, financial and otherwise, in maintaining a lock on the airwaves. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to cut that lock and to put the airwaves to use strengthening our communities. I urge the FCC to adopt this rule.